

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PINS, JO
SUBJ: FAA SECTION 32 -- POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: STATE 068545

1. CONSISTENT PATTERN OF INTERNMENT OR IMPRISONMENT OF CITIZENS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, AS DEFINED
REFTEL, NOT PRESENT IN JORDAN. AMNESTY ACT OF SEPT-EMBER 1973 STIPULATED RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS EXCEPT THOSE CONVICTED OF EXPIONAGE, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUALS STILL DETAINED
UNDER SEPARATE MILITARY LAW GOING BACK TO 1970 UP-RISING. THIS MILITARY LAW ADMINISTERED BY PM.

2. JORDANIAN LAW PROVIDES FOR DUE PROCESS RE ARREST, DETENTION, AND TRIAL OF CITIZENS, AS WELL AS PROHIBITING ARBITRARY ARREST. LITTLE DOUBT THAT OCCASIONAL ABUSES OF THESE LAWS OCCUR, BUT INCREASING STABILITY IN COUNTRY AFTER 1970 DISTURBANCES ENCOURAGING STRICTER OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES (AS EVIDENCED BY AMNESTY ACT). PRESENCE OF ARMED AND SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS ACTIVELY WORKING FOR OVERTHROW OF HASHEMITE THRONE VIA ASSASSINATION AND SABATAGE PLACE LIMITATIONS ON GOJ'S ABILITY FULLY IMPLEMENT THESE GUARANTEES IN EVERY CASE. THESE LIMITATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE JORDANIAN PRACTICE CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS "SUBSTANTIAL AND CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF ABOVE STANDARDS OCCURRING AS MATTER

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OF OFFICIAL POLICY OR OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE ON PART OF GOVE"

(REFTEL).

3. JORDAN, WHICH PLAYS KEY ROLE IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS, HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON US ECONOMIC AND MIL ASSISTANCE. CONSEQUENTLY THREATENED WITHDRAWAL OF SUCH ASSISTANCE TO ATTEMPT EFFECT CHANGES IN DETENTION PROCEDURES WOULD PLACE CURRENT PRO-U.S. GOVT IN EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS POSITION. THIS IN TURN WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT CURRENT U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS. PICKERING

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